



Cambridge Chronicle

Novartis named to best of list for commuters

New England's Best Workplaces for Commuters Coalition has announced that Novartis in Cambridge has been named to its first list of New England's Best Workplaces for Commuters.

The list spotlights New England employers offering superior commuter benefits to employees, thereby reducing traffic and air pollution and improving quality of life for harried commuters.

The coalition is composed of New England business, transportation, human resource and environmental organizations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The current list includes 83 New England employers representing almost 120,000 employees.

"In 2000, more than 6.5 million people commuted to work every day in New England. Almost eighty percent of those drove alone," said Patty Klavon, EPA program manager for the New England campaign. "Cars and trucks are responsible for more than half of New England's ozone-forming pollution."

The New England's Best Workplaces for Commuters list is a chance to recognize employers that have shown their commitment to alleviating these problems, saving their employees time and money, while reducing the congestion and pollution caused by so many cars on our roads."

To qualify as one of New England's Best Workplaces for Commuters, organizations must provide:

- A central point of contact for information, who actively informs employees of commuter benefits available.
- Access to a regional, TMA or employer-provided Guaranteed/Emergency Ride Home program.
- At least one primary commuter benefit, which can include a monthly transit/vanpool pass subsidy, cash in lieu of free parking, or a significant telecommuting program.
- At least three supporting commuter benefits, which can include carpool/vanpool incentives, lockers/showers for bikers or walkers, incentives to live near work or onsite amenities such as day care or dry cleaning.